

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3773

To prevent Members of the House of Representatives from making mass mailings during an election year, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 1996

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BLUTE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GOSS, Ms. GREENE of Utah, Mr. JACOBS, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. McHALE, Mr. PARKER, Mr. POSHARD, and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prevent Members of the House of Representatives from making mass mailings during an election year, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. RESTRICTION ON MASS MAILINGS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3210(a) of title 39, Unit-
5 ed States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

1 “(8)(A) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph
2 (6), a Member of, or Member-elect to, the House of Rep-
3 resentatives may not mail any mass mailing as franked
4 mailing if it would be postmarked during any session that
5 begins in an even-numbered calendar year before the
6 Tuesday next after the 1st Monday in November of such
7 year.

8 “(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall preclude the
9 mailing of—

10 “(i) any mail matter which is part of a mass
11 mailing described in paragraph (6)(B);

12 “(ii) a town meeting notice, if it is made more
13 than 90 days before the date of any primary election
14 or general election (whether regular, special, or run-
15 off) for any Federal, State, or local office in which
16 such Member is a candidate for election; or

17 “(iii) any mail matter which relates to an emer-
18 gency or disaster declared by the President, if—

19 “(I) the mailing is sent within 60 days
20 after the emergency or disaster is declared;

21 “(II) the recipients of the mailing are lo-
22 cated in a congressional district any portion of
23 which is within (or adjacent to) an area in-
24 cluded in the President’s declaration; and

1 “(III) the mailing relates solely to the
2 emergency or disaster.

3 “(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘town
4 meeting notice’ means any mailing which—

5 “(i) relates solely to a notice of the time
6 and place at which a Member of the House of
7 Representatives or 1 or more members of the
8 Member’s staff will be available to meet con-
9 stituents regarding legislative issues or prob-
10 lems with Federal programs;

11 “(ii) appears on a mailing 5½” x 8” or
12 smaller;

13 “(iii) includes not more than 3 references
14 to the Member (excluding any reference appear-
15 ing as the frank, consisting of the signature
16 and name at the end of the mailing, or other-
17 wise specified in regulations of the House Com-
18 mission on Congressional Mailing Standards);
19 and

20 “(iv) does not include any picture, sketch,
21 or other likeness of the Member.”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to even-numbered

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- 1 calendar years beginning after the date of the enactment
- 2 of this Act.

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